

**REMARKS**

Remarks to follow are numbered to correspond to the office action.

5                   ***Claims Rejections and Response to Arguments***

1-6. On December 17, 2007, applicant engaged in a telephone interview with examiner Joyner. Agreement was reached that the current amendment to the sole pending independent claim 1 does not introduce new matter, and does overcome the existing 102 and 103 prior art rejections.

This amendment to claim 1 essentially merges original claim 11 into claim 1, and adds some additional recitations for clarity, to make clear that all of the recited dimensional aspects of applicant's invention subsist in a single unitary article of manufacture.

In Adjeleian, US 6,596,374, the wider lip **3** in Figures 3 and 5, etc. is clearly separate from the rest of the object **4**, and is clearly a separate retainer, not at all unitary with the retained object itself. In Dodge, WO 2000/41945, there is no wider base akin to **106** of applicant's device, and also, the inward angle does not proceed right to the open top.

Examiner agreed that none of the references cited to date discloses, suggests or motivates the invention of claim 1, as amended.

25           Examiner also indicated, however, that because this was a final action and the foregoing amendment would necessitate additional searching prior to issuing an allowance, that the

proposed amendment could not be entered without the filing of a Request for Continued Examination (RCE). To expedite prosecution, applicant has filed the RCE herewith, and the required fees.

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***Conclusion***

7. As a result of the foregoing, applicant hereby requests entry of the amendments herein, a finding of record that these amendments overcome all rejections to date, and hopefully, a  
10 notice of allowance if no additional pertinent prior art appears in the additional searching.

As noted earlier, if these amendments and remarks do not place this application into condition for allowance, applicants' counsel hereby respectfully requests a telephone interview with  
15 examiner Kevin Joyner, following receipt of this reply, and prior to issuance of any further office action.

Respectfully submitted,



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